

APPENDIX A

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET REGISTRATION SERVICE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Date 12/11/87

Full name Morris W. Grooms
(no initials if you can possibly get full name)

Social Security Number [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

City Mt. Vernon State IL ZIP Code 62864

Date of Birth March, 1964 (This is important and should be exact.)

Approximate age 23 1/2 (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known.)

Religion _____ Nationality U.S. Citizen

Occupation Waiter, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon

Education Bachelor's Degree, SIU Carbondale

Weight 150 Height 5' 10" Race Black

Color of hair Black Color of eyes _____

Outstanding characteristics or interests Outgoing, difficulty working with authority

figures
Married or single Children None
(Number, ages, and names, if possible)

Spouse's name N/A

Scouting connections: None

Unit No.	City	State	Position	Date registered	Date resigned
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Special recognition Vigil/Eagle

Suspended or denied registration for following reasons: Child Abuse

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION, AND LIST ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE, OR SPECULATION):

CONFIDENTIAL

JAN 11 1988

F. STARON

NOTED

JAN 28 '88

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

Signed [Signature]
SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council Okaw Valley # 116

February 2, 1988

Mr. Lloyd E. Reitstein
Scout Executive
Okaw Valley Council, No. 116

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Morris W. Grooms

Dear Lloyd:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter.
This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent
Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration Service

PE/eko

cc. North Central Region

READY TO FILE
FEB 10 1988
ERL

CONF014766



OKAW VALLEY COUNCIL, B.S.A.

Belleville, Illinois 62223

MORRIS GROOMS/LLOYD ROITSTEIN MEETING

DATE HELD: 12/28/87, 11:00 A.M.

LOCATION: Denny's Restaurant, Mt. Vernon, IL

I sat down with Morris and we talked about his career as a bus boy, his future, his family, and Mt. Vernon. I then stated that the reason we were meeting was to talk about what happened at Camp this summer and I am sure he knew what I was talking about. I stated this was hard to do because he was such a dedicated Scout and Scouter. Morris is an Eagle Scout, past O. A. Lodge Chief and long time Camp Joy staff member. He said he knew that was what the meeting was about. He said he loved Scouting and would never do anything to harm it. That is why he was not registered and was staying away from all activities. I then read him the letter from the Council President. I, also, gave him a copy of Appendix "C", if anything ever changed.

Morris was friendly, courteous, and understanding. It "seemed" like there would be no further problems. The District Executive knows that he cannot be a Scouter.

Reported to Kathy Hollis - Child Abuse Hotline - [REDACTED] on 12/30/87.

OKAW VALLEY COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA





OKAW VALLEY COUNCIL, B.S.A.

Belleville, Illinois 62223

December 8, 1987

Mr. Morris W. Grooms

[REDACTED]
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

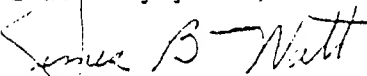
Dear Morris,

After careful review, we have decided that your registration with the Boy Scouts of America should not be accepted. We are therefore compelled to request that you sever any relations you may have with the Boy Scouts of America.

You should understand that BSA membership registration is a privilege and is not automatically granted to everyone who applies. We reserve the right to refuse registration whenever there is a concern that an individual may not measure up to the high standards of membership the BSA seeks to provide for American youth.

If you wish to have this decision reviewed, please write to me within 60 days of the date of this letter, explaining your version of the facts supporting your claim that your registration as a BSA member should be granted. The procedures for review are attached.

Sincerely yours,


James B. Watt
Council President

JBW/paw

enclosure

REPORT ON MORRIS GROOMS

Morris Grooms served on the 1987 Camp Joy Summer Camp Staff in the capacity of Dining Hall Steward. We first became alerted as to his "questionable character" when I was contacted by the parent's of a Counselor-in-Training, [REDACTED] (Age 15), from the previous week. They accidentally found a letter (attached) that Morris had written their son [REDACTED]. This letter was discovered while [REDACTED] was away on a canoe trip to Canada with his unit. I received a call from [REDACTED] in regard to this matter. He would not discuss what was upsetting him over the phone, but wanted to meet with me personally and discuss it. I agreed to meet him in Breesa, Illinois immediately to learn of the problem. It was at this meeting when I first learned of the letter. Both [REDACTED] were present at this meeting. The tone of the meeting was of concern, not anger. They provided me with a copy of this letter and in accordance with their wishes I agreed not to show or admit knowledge of the letter. It was their feeling that [REDACTED] should first have the opportunity to return home and allowing them the opportunity to discuss it and his feelings on the issue.

On returning to camp, I counseled with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in regard to their "relationship" with Morris as they had become close friends during the course of the summer. Without having to let them know why I was asking, I posed several questions to how involved their friendships were with Morris and as to the content of some of their more "personal conversations." I questioned if Morris had ever spoken on whether he was "seeing anyone," what types of "jokes" he commonly used in their presence and if there was any discussion regarding sex. Both Scouts responded with non-incriminating answers.

The following morning I called Morris into the office and discussed the fact that a very serious allegation had been made against him. I noted that I was in a position that it might involve his dismissal. My dissatisfaction with the situation was my inability to discuss openly and candidly the issue with him without otherwise breaching my word to the [REDACTED]. Aware of the seriousness of the issue, but lacking any substantial evidence other than insinuations in the attached letter, I allowed him to remain for the closing two weeks of camp. I made it clear to him that he was on a probationary status and could be immediately be dismissed if his behavior was questioned in any way. No other situation has been brought to my attention to date.

During this period Morris, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] became very close friends, often opposing the entire staff on opinions. They remained in their "own group" and tended to not be involved with the rest of the staff except in situations where it was required such as Staff Meetings and campfires. When camp ended and while Day Camp Staff was moving in, they were the last to leave the camp. [REDACTED] however, remained behind to serve on the Day Camp Staff. [REDACTED] was upset because he had been told he would continue to have a tent to himself during Day Camp and later told it would no longer be possible. This situation angered Morris, [REDACTED]. Acting on rumor that if he didn't get his own living quarters he was going to leave, I took [REDACTED] aside and made it clear that we don't work with ultimatums in Scout camp. If that was his desire to leave, the gate was right in front of him. He said he would be staying. The other three left "all steamed up." I told [REDACTED] to calm down and wait to see if there was a problem. As it turned out he was able to have his own living quarters.

For approximately the first two days [redacted] appeared to be miserable as his "friends" were no longer with him. I spoke with him on the second day about his isolation. He said he "was lonely and missed the other guys." I told him I understood, but his loneliness was the result of his own doing. He acknowledged this and we discussed how he was to overcome the problem, which he did.

Following camp additional details began to filter in, regarding the actions and habits of Morris. I learned that a chemical called "Rush" sold in record stores as a room deodorant had been in camp and some of the Staff had been sniffing it for a quick buzz. I also became aware of "crests" each of the members of the group had, from drawings on the back side of letters [redacted] received during Day Camp on a daily basis. As for the meaning of the crests, I'm still not clear. I did manage to read the contents of all the letters [redacted] received during Day Camp. They were generally normal correspondence with the exception of a few opinionated comments directed toward me, comments made regarding Morris and his habits, and [redacted] (copy of one letter attached.)

Morris came into camp during Day Camp at which time I questioned the reason for his presence in camp. Angered, I asked if "he'd come to nurture [redacted]." He said "no, he didn't need to nurture him. He was here to visit [redacted]." I asked Morris what his "problem" had been this summer. He avoided the conversation saying "he didn't know what I was talking about and I'd have to be more specific." After exchanging several curt comments to one another, I invited him to leave camp immediately and not to return. He left camp, walking to his car which he'd parked outside camp property.

Prior to camp I had been good friends with [redacted] and tried several times after camp to discuss his "new friends and habits" with him. I was always immediately "turned off" as he generally refused discuss the issues. In retrospect, the following details are potentially noteworthy.

- A. [redacted] served as the Camp Business Manager and had several "falling outs" with me regarding the accuracy of his bookkeeping and accounting.
- B. [redacted] experienced some difficulties working with the Aquatic's Director due to his "laisse faire" attitude toward enforcing waterfront rules.
- C. [redacted] left camp for 1-1/2 weeks during the summer to return home upon word his younger sister had been upducted and murdered.

I feel this are important in they might help to explain each of their attraction to anyone lending a friendly ear. (Especially [redacted])

Having accomplished nothing in trying to break up this group following camp on an individual basis, I felt it was in the best interest to inform each of the parents of the facts I knew. [redacted] had already told Morris to stay away from his son, not to phone or call personally. I explained to each parent (grandfather in [redacted] case) the group's members, known activities, crests, and problems during camp. Each was obviously concerned, but all indicated that they were aware "something was up." [redacted] had indicated [redacted] activity with Morris had already been restricted in some degree.

During this past week, I have been able to reestablish dialouge with both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They have indicated they realize that their actions were inappropriate during the past summer. I question their sincerity at this time, as they both are inquiring as to the possibility of reemployment at camp in 1988. In addition, they still have not severed ties with Morris.

Having recently attend the National Outdoor Planning Conference and receiving instruction on this type of national issue, I realize I would handle the situation much differently if presented to me today. Unfortunately this policy is "to little, to late" in this particular situation. Hopefully it will help me avoid a future similar incident.

Dear [REDACTED],

I will miss you! You, Me, and [REDACTED] became really close friends in a week. I've really enjoyed it and I hope that you did also. Have fun in Canada and good luck in summer school.

I hope that you would tell me anything because I'm going to tell you something. People might talk about me behind my back and you might have heard some things. I'm not saying I'm a fag or I'm gay. I'm really still confused myself. Since the AIDS shit got serious, I've stopped everything. I'll tell you right now that I'll never hurt you or do anything to you that you didn't want me to do. Friends shouldn't become involved with friends. It ruins the relationship.

I bet you feel like I
just dropped a ton a
kangas on your pants on you.
I don't think you'll freak -
out... you are very mature
for your age and you're
cool too. If you had been
ready to freak out, we
wouldn't have become blood
brothers today.

If people ~~to~~ tell you
you're cool, don't let it
go to your head. For
every person that thinks
you're cool, I don't give a
fuck about you. I have
to go now. I'll think
of you from time to
time and think of when
we can "ROCK" my sisters
again to those killer
Bush albums.

Words can't express
how I feel about you,
so I found this poem. →

WRITE
BACK
BITCH!


Friends Always
& Love

Monia
(Wally)

Because you are my friend,
we have shared
the secrets in our lives
and grown strong.

Because you are my friend,
we have sealed a bond
that time cannot remove,
and smiled a secret smile
that the world shall
never understand.

Because having such a
friend is more precious
than gold.
I have riches in untold
measure and a heart outside
my own to call home.



I. EMPLOYED 1987

Reported sexual involvement with fellow staff member (both sides consenting). Fellow staff member later reported incident and later confirmed by accused.

II. EMPLOYED 1987

No deviation reported in camp. Report by fellow staff member's parents of questionable letter received. Letter with strong implications.

III. OTHER*

- Accused constantly made questionable jokes
- Accused is reported to have admitted to deviation in sexual reference
- Accused is reported to have made attempts at "hands on" contact with other persons

* Reported only - cannot be confirmed

Address - [REDACTED] Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
SS# [REDACTED]; black; birthdate: March 1964

Not currently registered.

APPENDIX C

APPLICANT PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING REVIEW OF DECISION DENYING REGISTRATION

1. If registration is refused, the applicant may request a review of this decision. This request must be in the form of a written request from the individual which includes his or her version of the facts supporting the claim that registration should not have been denied.
2. Upon receipt of the written request for review, the president of the local council shall appoint a committee to review the situation.
3. The appointed committee should review the facts as presented, and, in addition, may interview any persons whose testimony might assist the committee in discovering the truth and arriving at a correct decision.
4. A confidential report will be given to the applicant setting forth the decision of the committee.
5. The applicant may—if he or she does not agree with the decision—request a review from the regional director.
6. If the regional review does not satisfy the applicant, he or she may ask for further review by the National Council. The decision by the National Council is final.